

U.S. halts arms deliveries to Beirut

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. government, concerned that the Lebanese army may not long survive as a fighting force, has suspended further deliveries of tanks and armoured personnel carriers, officials said Wednesday. "Everything's in a state of flux," said one of the officials, all of whom spoke on the condition they not be identified. Another official estimated that no more than 50 per cent to 60 per cent of the Lebanese army is intact. "The army has no direction because the political situation is so fluid," one official said, referring to the tottering government of President Amin Gemayel. Clearly, the United States fears that weapons and equipment could fall into the hands of opposition militias battling the Gemayel government. Two Lebanese army brigades reportedly abandoned U.S.-supplied tanks and armoured personnel carriers when the force was recently defeated near Beirut.

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Hassan visits army division

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Wednesday visited the headquarters of the Fifth Royal Armoured Division and inspected its units and heard a briefing on its services and duties. Prince Hassan also watched an exercise and a competition in dismantling and re-assembling military equipment and an athletic display. At the end of the competition Prince Hassan distributed awards to the winning teams.

Cheysson says France will never accept Lebanon partition

PARIS (AP) — Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson said Wednesday France would never accept the partition of Lebanon. Speaking to the diplomatic press association, Mr. Cheysson said, "Lebanon must be able as part of a major reconciliation effort to rediscover itself united around its legitimately elected president. This appears to us an indispensable condition so that Lebanon can be understood abroad and its freedom and independence respected." In replying to questions, Mr. Cheysson referred several times to the legitimacy of President Amin Gemayel, whose resignation Lebanese opposition leaders have demanded.

Saudi leader arrives in London

LONDON (AP) — Prince Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz, crown prince of Saudi Arabia, arrived in London Wednesday for talks with Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher on Lebanon and the Gulf war. The prince, on a three-day trip, is making his first official visit outside the Arab World since becoming crown prince and deputy prime minister two years ago. The prince arrived at Heathrow airport aboard his personal Saudi Airlines 747 and was greeted by British Defence Secretary Michael Heseltine.

Fahd, Evren begin talks

BAHRAIN (R) — King Fahd of Saudi Arabia began talks Wednesday with Turkish President Kenan Evren on ways to boost relations between their two Muslim countries. Turkish embassy officials in Jeddah said. The officials, contacted by telephone from Bahrain, said General Evren, who arrived in Riyadh Tuesday, was earlier briefed by Saudi Minister of Planning Faisal Nazer on the kingdom's development projects.

3 killed in Belfast gunfight

BELFAST (AP) — Police and British troops Wednesday searched for evidence in a field where two guerrilla suspects and a British soldier died in a gun battle near the village of Dunloy. The shooting erupted Tuesday night when an army patrol encountered a group of armed men, said a press officer at Belfast police headquarters. A second soldier was in serious condition with gunshot wounds, police said.

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Kohl defends arms sales to Saudis

BONN (AP) — West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl defended his government's plans to sell arms to Saudi Arabia in an interview published Wednesday in a Jewish weekly newspaper. Dr. Kohl told the Dusseldorf-based Allgemeine Juedische Wochenzeitung that he believes moderate Arab forces such as the Saudis should be strengthened. "We are convinced about the honest endeavours of the Saudi government for stability, restraint and agreement," the Christian Democratic chancellor was quoted as saying in an interview. "We recognise the right to self-defence and believe that peace in the Middle East is best served if the modest forces among the Arabs are strengthened and not weakened." Dr. Kohl said. During a trip to Israel last month, Dr. Kohl told Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir that Bonn would stand firm on proposed arms sales to Saudi Arabia, despite strong opposition from the Israeli government.

Jordan severs relations with Libya

By Afifah A. Kaloti
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan Wednesday severed diplomatic and political relations with Libya over the attack and burning of the Jordanian embassy in Tripoli last Saturday.

The decision was taken at a cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Ahmad 'Obeidat, who, in an earlier address to the Lower House of Parliament, revealed that during the attack on the embassy, Jordanian diplomats were threatened by the attackers whom he described as agents of Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi.

The cabinet, "after reviewing the dimensions of the burning of the Jordanian embassy in Tripoli during which the lives of Jordanian diplomats were endangered, has decided to sever diplomatic and political relations with Libya as of today, Wednesday," the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, quoted a cabinet statement as saying.

The decision followed a lengthy cabinet meeting in which ministers studied a report by Jordanian Ambassador to Libya Sami Al Shamaileh, who was present at the Tripoli embassy during the attack, and made a thorough review of Jordanian-Libyan relations.

In his address to the Lower House, Mr. 'Obeidat rejected Libyan suggestions that Palestinian commandos stationed in Tripoli were responsible for the attack. The prime minister pointed out that the Palestinians living in Libya have sent a message to Mr. Shamaileh, through an Arab ambassador in Tripoli, in which

they disclaimed any responsibility for the attack and expressed disappointment of being accused of the "dirty charge for the attack which would not serve neither the Palestinian nor the Arab cause."

Details revealed

Mr. Shamaileh and Embassy Counsellor Faisal Khurshid arrived in Amman Tuesday along with their families in response to an urgent summons by the government.

The Palestinians' message to the ambassador also explained that the four or five Palestinians who were notified by embassy staff during the storming were paid to do so by Colonel Qadhafi, the prime minister said.

The number of people who stormed the embassy ranged from 200 to 250 and were transported to the diplomatic mission by the Libyan government in five vehicles, Mr. 'Obeidat revealed.

He added that the attackers included labourers and Chadian mercenaries mixed with Libyan policemen in civilian and military uniforms and with female conscripts from Col. Qadhafi's guards.

"The details of the attack were collected from various sources and Ambassador Shamaileh assured us of their authenticity" in a meeting at the Foreign Ministry Wednesday morning, Mr. 'Obeidat said.

Libyan Television broadcast a statement on Thursday, Feb. 16, claiming that it was on behalf of Palestinian "revolutionary committees" from all factions living in Libya and called on Palestinians to gather in Tripoli's Green Square on Saturday, Feb. 18, to organise a march towards the Jordanian Embassy, the prime minister recounted.

About 100 Libyan policemen were stationed around the embassy building before the demonstrators reached the Green Square and their march towards the embassy, Mr. 'Obeidat said. "The Libyan security forces were there to organise the storming of the embassy," rather than protecting it, the prime minister said.

Briefing the Lower House on what happened from the moment the demonstrators reached the embassy building, Mr. 'Obeidat went on to say that the Libyan policemen who were supposed to prevent the attack gave way to demonstrators to storm the embassy.

Upon their arrival, Mr. 'Obeidat said, the demonstrators started breaking down the external gates of the embassy by big axes and entered the building with flaming torches. The demonstrators spread around in the various floors of the building, some setting the furniture ablaze, others stealing the embassy's properties such as files, and application papers for passport renewals and some others burning papers while others carried away small bags and steel safes "thinking that they contain things that might be useful to them," he said.

Other demonstrators were breaking the doors of the rooms in all the embassy's floors and setting

fire in them by clothes dipped in petrol, the prime minister went on.

The attackers went up to the roof of the building and hoisted the Jordanian flag and hoisted Libyan and Palestinian flags and left the building as flames spread throughout the embassy, Mr. 'Obeidat continued.

Staff threatened

During the attack, Mr. 'Obeidat said, the rioters forced the ambassador and his staff to open the door of a room they were in and threatened them with death.

After the rioters left the building, the ambassador and his staff went to the roof of the building and asked for help from neighbours who offered their help, Mr. 'Obeidat said.

The ambassador and his staff managed to get out of the flaming building by sliding down walls and pipelines, the prime minister said.

A Libyan police officer approached the ambassador and asked him to get into a car and took him to a police station where he was asked to talk to a "representative" of the demonstrators.

The "representative" wanted to present a "protest" to the ambassador, who refusing to talk to him, took refuge at the Kuwaiti embassy where he was offered every help the Kuwaitis could give, Mr. 'Obeidat told the Lower House.

He stressed that the groups which were surrounding the embassy before the attack were a mixture of policemen in uniforms and security officers in civilian clothes as well as male and female guards of Col. Qadhafi wearing civilian and military costumes.

"All of the demonstrators were

carrying arms and the march was described as a Palestinian one," the prime minister said.

He pointed out that the attackers of the embassy included all of those elements wearing civilian clothes and the embassy's staff could not distinguish them "but the attackers were Libyans carrying individual arms, and I leave it for you to judge who are allowed to possess arms in Libya."

Mr. 'Obeidat said that most of the Arab and foreign ambassadors to Libya, as well as citizens contacted Mr. Shamaileh and assured him that the Libyan government was behind the attack. It was the Libyan government which collected people from the streets and Chadian mercenaries as well as factions from the Libyan intelligence and arranged them to be transported in five trucks to the Green Square, the diplomats told Mr. Shamaileh, according to Mr. 'Obeidat.

Mr. 'Obeidat pointed out that

the day after the burning of the embassy most of the Arab and foreign ambassadors passed by the embassy "which had by then become an 'exhibition' for all citizens and diplomats."

He went on to say that the Jordanian embassy was not the first nor will be last embassy in Libya to be burnt down, but "what is sadening about it is that when the Libyan government decided to burn the French embassy (few years earlier) it informed the embassy staff to evacuate the building and gave them six hours to do so."

"However, the embassy of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan was treated differently because the Jordanian-Libyan relations were 'good' and should be preserved and such a deed should not affect bilateral relations absolutely," the visibly angry prime minister commented sarcastically.

Mr. 'Obeidat was obviously referring to the words of the Libyan charge d'affaires in Amman, who pleaded ignorance of the attack Saturday.

Mr. 'Obeidat said that in a previous government statement before the House "we sincerely and genuinely called on strengthening Arab solidarity and pledged that our methods in attaining that would be based on our insistence to work in a responsible manner to solve all Arab differences."

He added: "We cannot violate this principle, for it is a fixed policy for the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and that is why I said it is high time to re-evaluate relations with Libya taking into consideration all the past, the present and the future, and I mean what I say."

(Continued on page 3)

Iraq crushes Iranian offensive, says new battle should be final

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq said Wednesday it had crushed a new Iranian offensive in the 41-month-old Gulf war and President Saddam Hussein said the latest fighting should be decisive.

An Iraqi military spokesman said the offensive, launched Tuesday night, had been "completely annihilated" by Iraqi forces.

Commenting on the fighting in a radio broadcast later, President Hussein said: "The criminals wanted a decisive battle... so let it be a decisive one that will fortify the victory of Iraq and defeat the evil, aggressive and expansionist ambitions of the enemy."

President Hussein said he was sure of an Iraqi victory because Iraq had "better armaments, better supplies, better preparations and greater faith."

The military spokesman said the Iraqis had tried to attack Iraq's Fourth Army Corps near

Shib and Shelat on the border of Iraq's Misan province.

Iraq warned Tuesday, before the latest Iranian offensive, that a new attack was imminent and warned that Iraqi forces might strike deep inside Iran.

The new Iranian offensive came only a few hours after Iraq appealed for an international effort "to deter the Iranian regime."

After warning that such an attack was imminent.

A foreign diplomat in Baghdad and a U.S. official in Washington both of whom did not wish to be identified, said that Iran had massed 500,000 troops for what was expected to develop into a major World-War-I type of battle, according to the Associated Press.

The Iranian national news agency IRNA, received in London, claimed Iranian forces had thrust to positions 17 kilometres from the Baghdad-Basra highway.

It said the latest two-pronged offensive began late Tuesday night over a 100-kilometre front in the central and southern sectors of the 41-month-old Gulf war.

Tehran Radio, monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation, said fierce fighting was continuing Wednesday afternoon.

It said hand-to-hand fighting was continuing in some areas, while heavy clashes were reported in the northern sector of the offensive, where it claimed Iraqis had advanced.

Iraq Tuesday accused Iran of shelling its southern border township of Shihabi despite a promise not to bombard civilian centres.

The Iraqi News Agency (INA) quoted a military spokesman as saying that two houses were destroyed by the shelling, which also caused damage to the township's mosque, a school and other civilian buildings.

Rightist alliance pressures Gemayel as Saudi mediators report progress

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Saudi Arabian mediators reported some progress Wednesday in efforts to resolve the Lebanese crisis, but Lebanon's civil war factions remained sharply divided over the fate of the May 17 troop withdrawal accord with Israel.

President Amin Gemayel was prepared to scrap the agreement as demanded by Syria and its allies in Lebanon, according to government sources who declined to be identified, the Associated Press said. But several rightist leaders warned that they would withdraw their support of the president if the agreement was scrapped.

As Saudi negotiators held meetings in Beirut and Damascus, the U.S. Marines at Beirut International Airport continued to move equipment and personnel to Sixth Fleet ships offshore.

Hariri briefs Salem

Rafiq Hariri, a Lebanese-born Saudi businessman who has been a key negotiator, drove to Beirut Wednesday and immediately conferred with Lebanese Foreign Minister Elie Salem on the outcome of talks with Lebanese opposition and Syrian leaders in Damascus.

Another Saudi negotiator, Prince Bandar bin Sultan, who is the kingdom's ambassador to Washington, emerged from a meeting with Syrian Foreign Minister

Abdul Halim Khaddam to say "we have discussed and decided a few things... we have a positive and a very good meeting today."

"We are resolved to solve all problems, and I am very optimistic," Prince Bandar said.

"Matters are going in the right direction to serve the Lebanese interest," he said, adding both Saudi Arabia and Syria would "continue to do their best to end the bloodshed and ordeal in Lebanon."

Reuters quoted Saudi sources said Mr. Hariri was seeking Mr. Gemayel's approval of a "minor" amendment Syria wanted to a draft plan he had worked out earlier in Beirut with the Lebanese president.

If all went well, they said, the plan was expected to be announced in Beirut later Wednesday.

They declined to say whether the draft was the same four-point initiative Lebanese opposition sources said was put forward by Saudi Arabia after Syria rejected an earlier plan last week, Reuters said.

This included appointment of a new prime minister and cabinet, public abrogation of a May 1983 troop withdrawal accord between Lebanon and Israel and resumption of national reconciliation talks on political reforms, according to Reuters.

The original plan, which was

also rejected by Lebanese opposition groups as well as right-wing militias, had called for a simultaneous withdrawal of Syrian and Israeli troops from Lebanon.

Damascus objected on the grounds that the proposals put Syria and Israel on an equal footing.

Rightists threaten Gemayel

But Mr. Gemayel now is in danger of losing the support of even right-wing groups opposed to abrogation of the Israeli agreement.

Former President Camille Chamoun, the head of the "Lebanese Front" coalition which put Mr. Gemayel in power, said he would abandon the president if he gave in to Syrian demands (Chamoun insists on Syrian withdrawal, page 2).

Fady Frem, commander of the "Lebanese Forces" militia, said his men also opposed cancellation of the treaty (Militia chief warns Gemayel, page 2).

The statements mean Mr. Gemayel is now almost completely isolated, having failed to satisfy Syria or the predominantly Muslim and Druze opposition and in danger of losing his remaining support among fellow Christians.

Former President Chamoun said in a statement published by his national Liberal Party's daily newspaper that he understood Mr. Gemayel might now be ready to give in to Syrian and opposition

demands and abrogate the treaty unconditionally.

In an interview later with Reuters, he said he expected other groups in the mainly Christian "Lebanese Front" to join the liberals in opposing Mr. Gemayel if he cancelled the treaty. The front, of which Mr. Chamoun is president, includes the powerful Falangist Party founded and run by Mr. Gemayel's father, Pierre.

Mr. Chamoun said leaders of the front would seek a meeting with President Gemayel as soon as possible to establish exactly what he intended to do about the treaty.

Muslim religious leaders crossed the "green line" dividing Beirut Wednesday for talks with Christian clergymen in what one participant said was the first meeting of its kind since the 1975-76 civil war.

Sunni and Shi'ite Muslim leaders attended. Sources close to the meeting said Druze representatives had been invited but none came.

A statement issued after the talks condemned the killing, kidnapping and destruction of property in Lebanon. It called for talks to arrange an immediate ceasefire, open up the green line, and release those held hostage by various armed groups.

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Chinese leader expected March 8

AMMAN (J.T.) — The President of the People's Republic of China, Mr. Li Xiannian, will pay a state visit to Jordan from March 8 to March 13 at the invitation of His Majesty King Hussein. It was announced here Wednesday.

An announcement by the Royal Court said that the president will hold talks with King Hussein on current international affairs and ways of bolstering Jordanian-Chinese relations and expanding the scope of bilateral co-operation in various fields.

The Chinese president's visit will come in the course of a tour which he will make abroad that will also take him to Pakistan, Turkey and Nepal. The president will stay here for a three-day state visit to be followed by a two-day private visit to Jordan.

According to a statement by the Chinese foreign ministry, the president will be accompanied by his wife Lin Jiamie, Vice-Premier Tian Jiyun, Vice-Foreign Minister Gong Dafei, and Vice Minister of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade Zheng Toubin.

The visit to Jordan will be in return for an official visit made by King Hussein to China last September.

European Parliament president begins visit

By Salamah B. Ne'matt
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — European Parliament President Pieter Dankert arrived here Wednesday for a three-day visit to Jordan during which he will be meeting with Jordanian officials to discuss the situation in the Middle East and means for a peaceful solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The representative of the European Community (EC) in Amman, Thomas O'Sullivan, told the Jordan Times that Mr. Dankert is scheduled to meet with His Majesty King Hussein, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and the speakers of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament, Ahmad Al Lawzi and Akef Al Fayed, respectively.

Mr. Dankert, who is accompanied by his political advisors, is expected to discuss Middle East issues in the light of resolutions adopted by the European Parliament which call on EC member states to take an immediate initiative to bring pressure to bear on the various parties involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict to negotiate a lasting settlement, possibly within the framework of United Nations Resolutions 242 and 338 and various other peace initiatives.

In its Dec. 16 resolutions, the European Parliament envisaged a possible Middle East solution on the basis of the U.N. resolutions, the EC's Venice Declaration of June 1980, and the Arab peace plan adopted at the Fez, Morocco, summit in 1982.

The EC also considered a joint Franco-Egyptian initiative which

is accepted by the 10 EC member states in the framework of European political co-operation. The European Parliament resolutions also state that any delay in peace efforts until after the U.S. presidential elections in November 1984 will be "highly dangerous" and cannot be countenanced.

During Mr. Dankert's visit to Israel earlier this month, Israeli newspapers quoted him as saying Israel's settlement policy in the occupied West Bank is "counter-productive to any peaceful solution of the overall problem."

Mr. Dankert, who was addressing the Israeli parliament on Feb. 6 during his three-day visit, said Israel's settlement policy was instrumental "in almost destroying the very commendable initiative of His Majesty King Hussein who is still in the process of negotiations with Palestinian officials."

In his speech to the Israeli parliament, Mr. Dankert also said Europe sees the question of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people as the fundamental problem of the Middle East — next to the Iran-Iraq war.

He described U.S. President Ronald Reagan's Middle East peace initiative announced in September 1982, as a "slow but sometimes imperceptible movement forward."

Mr. Dankert was received upon his arrival in Amman Wednesday by Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Oqasem, Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri, Jordanian Ambassador to the EC headquarters in Brussels Hassan Abu Na'amen and EC Commission Representative Sullivan.

TASTE OF ASIA
AT
The Regency Palace

M/V ODESSA
(see page 6)

Shultz defends Lebanon pact

WASHINGTON (R) — Secretary of State George Shultz defended his backing for the Israeli troop withdrawal agreement with Lebanon he helped negotiate, saying, "I'm proud of it."

Mr. Shultz told the Senate Budget Committee the May 17, 1983, agreement was basically a good document that had held out the prospect of withdrawal of foreign troops from Lebanon.

But he said Israel's partial withdrawal last September caused Syria to harden its position and led to renewed fighting and infiltration in the vacated areas.

Syria has demanded that Lebanon repudiate last year's accord, saying it infringed Lebanon's sovereignty. The accord provided for Israel's border security and some normalisation of relations.

"People say that agreement is a great stumbling block to peace in the Middle East," Mr. Shultz said.

"I open the newspapers every day and I'm attacked as if there is something wrong with me for

supporting that agreement," Mr. Shultz said.

"Frankly, I'm proud of that agreement because what's wrong with reasonable security and the prospect of a reasonable relationship with another country?" Mr. Shultz said.

On Tuesday, Democratic Congressman Bill Alexander, deputy assistant majority leader in the House of Representatives, called on Mr. Shultz to resign because, along with President Reagan, "he is responsible for this foreign policy failure (in Lebanon)."

Mr. Shultz in his testimony said it was expected that the U.S. Marines in Beirut would be deployed on ships offshore in about two weeks.

Senate Republican Leader Howard Baker said after meeting

Mr. Reagan and Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger earlier that the pullout was expected to be completed by the end of the month.

"Some redeployment to ships has already taken place," Mr. Shultz said. "The main items of heavy equipment were in the process of being moved."

The Secretary said the number of Marines that will remain in Beirut to provide protection for the U.S. embassy, the ambassador's residence and other U.S. personnel "will be considerably more than is typical, running into the hundreds."

He said "under the circumstances prevailing in Lebanon, we think they are entitled to a little bit more protection" than is normally provided by the small detachment of Marine guards which is usually assigned to U.S. embassies abroad.

The Secretary also pointed out that considerable numbers of Americans have been in Lebanon

as trainers for the Lebanese Armed Forces.

Mr. Shultz did not offer any specific figures for the numbers of military trainers that will remain in Lebanon after the redeployment of the Marine contingent of the Multi-National Force (MNF) to ships offshore.

The Secretary appeared before the Senate committee urging support for the administration's fiscal 1985 foreign assistance budget request and also for a 1984 supplemental budget request sent to Congress last week.

Virtually all of the questioning from senators centred on U.S. policy in Central America and in Lebanon.

Mr. Shultz emphasised that United States objectives in Lebanon had been "honourable" and good and he said he regrets the administration had not been able to achieve its objectives there, but pledged that it would "keep trying."



A U.S. Marine carrying his M-16 rifle and his backpack prepares to board a helicopter that will take him to a ship of the U.S. fleet off the coast of Lebanon, Tuesday (AP wirephoto)

Chamoun insists on Syrian withdrawal from Lebanon

BEIRUT (R) — Camille Chamoun, one of Lebanon's most influential Christian leaders, said Wednesday he would withdraw all support for the government if it scrapped last May's treaty with Israel unconditionally.

The former President told Reuters in an interview he would only accept cancelling the treaty, which commits Israel to withdraw its troops from Lebanon, if Syria agreed to remove its forces from the country within three months.

"We will not accept the abrogation of the agreement except under the condition of the withdrawal of Syrian troops from all Lebanon within a period of three months," he said.

Mr. Chamoun said Tuesday night he had learned that Lebanon's current President, Amin Gemayel, was considering giving in to Syrian and Lebanese opposition demands for unconditional abrogation of the treaty worked out last May.

Earlier this month Mr. Gemayel offered to scrap the treaty as part of a package of proposals including the simultaneous withdrawal of Israeli and Syrian troops within three months.

But both Syria and the opposition, whose militia forces have recently scored decisive victories over the Lebanese army, rejected the plan.

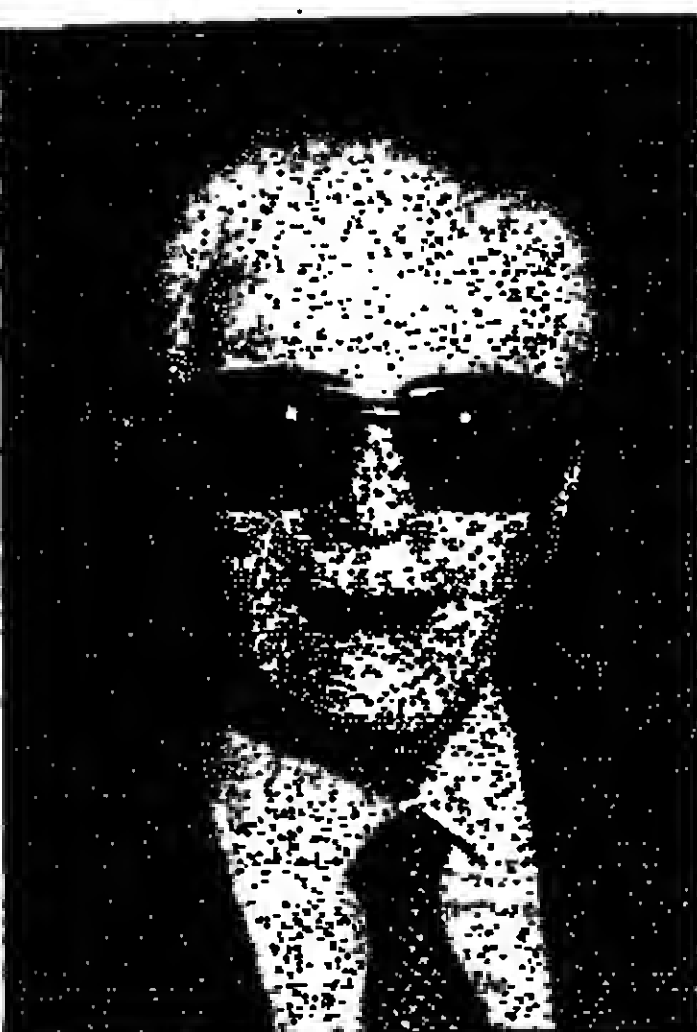
They oppose the treaty because it gives Israel a role in policing South Lebanon.

The 83-year-old Mr. Chamoun, who was president of Lebanon from 1952 to 1958, is leader of the National Liberal Party and president of the Lebanese Front, which groups the Liberals and other Christian parties.

Mr. Chamoun said if the president cancelled the May treaty unconditionally "that will be a major disagreement with President Gemayel and... we will refuse any kind of cooperation with him and his government."

He said he would also refuse to take part in any new session of national reconciliation talks in Geneva or elsewhere.

Mr. Chamoun said he expected that other members of the Lebanese Front would join the Liberals in such a boycott. The front



Camille Chamoun

includes the powerful Falangist Party founded and run by Mr. Gemayel's father, Pierre. "If the news remains the same which means if the agreement is going to be cancelled without pre-condition, I believe that the position of the Lebanese Front will be the same as that of the Liberal Party," he said.

Pierre Gemayel said a week ago that he would accept abrogation of the treaty as part of a package guaranteeing the withdrawal of all Israeli and Syrian troops.

Mr. Chamoun said leaders of the Lebanese Front would seek a meeting with President Gemayel as soon as possible to establish exactly what he intended to do about the accord.

He declared: "The president has to stand up. We have to stand up. We have so far resisted all kinds of pressure from the Syrians. We will continue to resist all kinds of pressure."

Mr. Chamoun said if the president refused to abrogate the May treaty, "We'll all be around him, all of us."

He warned that if the Syrian-backed forces increased pressure on the Falangists, the Falangist militias might feel forced to move off the defensive on to the offensive.

So far the Falangist militias say they have not taken any active part in recent fighting between the Lebanese army and the opposing groups.

U.N. officials sceptical of Beirut force

NAJOURA, Lebanon (AP) — U.N. officials are sceptical about whether an armed United Nations force can be created to keep the peace in the Lebanese capital of Beirut after the four-nation Multinational Force failed to do the job.

Instead, they say, proposals are being discussed to expand the area patrolled by the 5,700-man U.N. force in South Lebanon once an Israeli evacuation takes place.

While the force gradually expanded north, the size of the unarmed observer group in Beirut could be increased, said a diplomat close to the negotiations. Speaking on condition he not be identified, the diplomat added that senior U.N. officials were considering this as a possible compromise formula.

U.N. spokesman Timor Goksel said in an interview no decision had been made yet on the type of U.N. presence that could be established in Beirut.

It troops of the 10-nation U.N. Interim Force in southern Lebanon were sent to Beirut, he said, "we need to have some idea of the area we would be given and to know what is our mission."

France has presented a draft resolution to the U.N. Security Council calling for a cease-fire, the expansion of the 50-man observer group in Beirut and creation of an armed U.N. Peacekeeping

Force for the Lebanese capital.

However, U.N. officials at the UNIFIL headquarters in Najoura, 90 kilometres south of Beirut near the Israeli border, cited a number of conditions that had to be met before a new force was created or the old one expanded to Beirut.

A request must be made by the Lebanese government of President Amin Gemayel, who has thus far preferred clinging to the Multinational Force, much of which has now departed.

The U.N. Security Council, including the Soviet Union and the United States, must overcome big power rivalries and agree on a mandate for such a force.

Countries willing to commit their soldiers to a seemingly impossible mission after the failure of the Multinational Force which was made up of U.S., French, Italian and British troops.

The consent of a variety of militias deployed in Beirut and the surrounding area, including the Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) and Shiite fighters, as well as a firm cease-fire.

U.N. officials who spoke on condition they not be identified said their greatest fear was that any U.N. force in Beirut would be dragged unwilling into policing truces between warring factions. "It would likely evolve into a police force and the danger is that

you get involved and become identified as a partisan force," said one official.

Another problem is defining the mandate to suit all sides. The Lebanese government has reportedly said it would accept a U.N. force that was deployed throughout the country. But U.N. officials here said such a force would require 50,000 to 60,000 soldiers and it might be difficult to find enough contributing nations.

Another option, U.N. officials here said, was the gradual expansion of the UNIFIL force north of the Litani River. It would require the withdrawal of Israeli forces who overran UNIFIL in launching their June 1982 invasion of Lebanon and are currently deployed as far north as the Awali River.

U.N. officials said it would take only 24 hours to set up a headquarters and medical unit in Sidon, the port city 40 kilometres south of Beirut.

UNIFIL was created in 1978 after Israel's first, 90-day invasion of South Lebanon to push back Palestinian Liberation Organisation commandos.

The force was given a mission of overseeing the Israeli withdrawal, establishing a zone of peace and assisting the Lebanese government in re-establishing its control.

Lebanese militia chief cautions Gemayel

WASHINGTON (R) — Fadi Frem, commander of the Falangist militia in Lebanon, says his forces will not accept the unilateral abrogation of the 1983 Israeli-Lebanese troop withdrawal agreement, the Washington Post reported Wednesday.

Commander Frem told U.S. correspondents in an interview at the militia's headquarters in Beirut that his forces would actively oppose President Amin Gemayel if he acceded to Syrian pressure to repudiate the pact.

Reagan briefs Republicans

WASHINGTON (USIA) — U.S. Deputy Press Secretary Larry Speakes Tuesday said President Ronald Reagan briefed Republican congressional leaders on events in Lebanon, on deficit-reduction efforts and on the crime bill pending in the House.

Asked about the Senator Howard Baker's comment later that it would have taken 50,000 troops to accomplish U.S. aims in Lebanon, Mr. Speakes said that number had come up in the discussion.

Tunisian postmen, teachers demand higher salaries

TUNIS, Tunisia (AP) — Thousands of postmen and secondary-school teachers went on strike throughout Tunisia on Tuesday in continuing labour unrest and protests against the conservative economic policies of Prime Minister Mohammad Mzali.

Official sources said most of the 18,000 secondary teachers observed a one-day strike to back salary demands, following a similar strike last week by most of the country's 32,000 primary-school teachers.

Education Minister Frej Cheddi denounced the strikes as a "political effort to create problems for the government."

Post office workers who staged a one-day wildcat strike Monday to back pay demands decided to continue the action Tuesday to obtain the release of a strike organiser arrested by police.

Shamir discusses Lebanon, trade with Dutch leaders

THE HAGUE (R) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir began talks Wednesday with Dutch leaders centring on Lebanon and his request for the support of the Netherlands on increasing European Community trade with his country.

Diplomats said Mr. Shamir would talk to Prime Minister Ruud Lubbers and Foreign Minister Hans Van Den Broek about French proposals to replace Beirut's Multinational Force with a United Nations military detachment.

The agenda also was said to include the U.N. Force in southern Lebanon (UNIFIL), which includes 150 Dutch troops.

At a meeting with Community Foreign Ministers in Brussels Tuesday, he backed the idea of moving UNIFIL to Beirut under a new mandate. But Mr. Shamir said later a locally recruited Lebanese force might be able to replace Israeli troops occupying southern Lebanon.

The Netherlands has said it would wait for a U.N. Security Council decision before deciding whether to provide troops for a U.N. Force in Beirut.

Mr. Shamir also planned to seek Dutch support for increased trade between the European Community and Israel, it was said.

TV & RADIO WHAT'S GOING ON FOR THE TRAVELLER USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.

JORDAN TELEVISION MAIN CHANNEL

16:30 Koran
16:45 Cartoons
17:10 Cartoons
17:30 Children Programmes
18:00 Children Programmes
18:30 Local Competition Programme
19:00 News in Arabic
20:00 Arabic Series
20:30 Arabic Play
21:00 News in Arabic
21:30 Play Comed.

FOREIGN CHANNEL

18:00 French Programme
19:00 News in French
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:30 Comedy: Benson
21:00 Comedy: Benson
21:30 Drama: St. Elsewhere
22:00 News in English
22:15 Feature Film: Roller Coaster
George Segal, Susan Strasberg

RADIO JORDAN

855 KHz. A.M. 950 KHz. F.M.
It partly on 950 KHz. SW

07:00 Light Music
07:30 Newsdesk
08:00 Morning Show
08:30 News Summary
09:00 Morning Show
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24:00 News Summary

BBC WORLD SERVICE

06:00 Newsdesk 06:30 Classical Record Review 06:45 Financial Review 06:55 Reflections 07:00 World News: 24 Hours News: News Summary 07:30 Radio News: 24 Hours News: News Summary 08:00 Newsdesk 08:30 Nature Notebook 08:40 The Farming World 09:00 World News: 24 Hours News: News Summary 09:30 Country Style 09:45 Network World News: 24 Hours News: News Summary 10:15 Mr. Know-All 10:30 John Peel 11:00 World News 11:09 British Press Review 11:15 The World Today 11:30 Financial News 11:40 Look Ahead 11:45 Education: The Making of a Composer 12:15 Monitor 12:30 Yes Minister 13:00 World News: News about Britain 13:15 News Ideas 13:25 The Week in Wales 13:30 Assignment 14:00 Radio Newsdesk 14:15 Top Twenty 14:45 Sports Round-up 15:00 World News: 24 Hours News: News Summary 15:30 Network U.K. 15:45 The Pleasure's Yours 16:30 Discovery 17:00 Radio Newsdesk 17:15 Outlook 18:00 World News 18:09 Commentary 18:15 Assignment 18:45 The World Today 19:00 World News 19:09 Meridian 19:40 The Week in Wales 19:45 Sports Round-up 20:00 Newsdesk 20:30 The Connemara 21:00 Outlook: News Summary 21:45 Stock Market Report: Look Ahead 21:45 Report on Religion 22:00 World News 22:09 24 Hours News: News Summary 22:30 A Jolly Good Show 23:15 Ulster Newsletter 23:20 In the Meantime 23:30 Business Matters 24:00 The Week in Wales 24:05 Financial News 24:15 Reflections 24:45 Sports Round-up 25:00 World News: Commentary 01:15 Meridian Navy Programme 01:30 Meridian

VOICE OF AMERICA

SW 1260, SW 720, 1365, 11740

06:00 VOA Morning: News on the hour; news summaries; business reports; science and medicine; sports reports; VOA editorial and world and U.S. opinion roundups, analysis, viewpoints, features 17:10 News 17:30 Special English News and features 18:00 News 18:10 Focus 18:30 News Music USA 19:00 News 19:10 Newsline 19:30 Special English News and features 20:00 News 20:10 Focus 20:30 News Music USA 21:00 Newsline 21:30

RADIO JORDAN

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TODAY'S EVENTS EXHIBITIONS

* "Portraits of Landscapes from the Middle East" by Wolfgang Fietisch at the Goethe Institute at 9:00 a.m.
* Paintings by Saleh Khalil Abu Shindi at the Alia Art Centre at 5:00 p.m.
* Paintings by Jean-Claude Boudrias at the French Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

FILM

* "Russian Film Week" starts at 8:00 p.m. at the Royal Cultural Centre.

LECTURE

* By Dr. Anne Mellor at the American Centre at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday.

CULTURAL CENTRES

Royal Cultural Centre Tel. 6611267
American Centre Tel. 44371
British Council Tel. 361478
French Cultural Centre Tel. 37000
Goethe Institute Tel. 41903
Soviet Cultural Centre Tel. 42303
Spanish Cultural Centre Tel. 24449
Turkish Cultural Centre Tel. 39777
Hayat Arts Centre Tel. 665105
Hussein Youth City Tel. 667181
J.W.C.A. Tel. 41703
Y.M.C.A. Tel. 664251
Amman Municipal Library Tel. 36111
University of Jordan Library Tel. 843555

MUSEUMS

Folklore Museum: Jewellery and costumes over 100 years old. Also murals from Madaba and Jerash 4th to 18th centuries. The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 51761.
Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al Daffa (Citadel) Hill. Opening hours: 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Fridays and official holidays 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays.

PRAYER TIMES

04:48 Fajr
06:11 (Sunrise) Shuruq
11:50 Dhuhur
15:02 Asr
17:28 Maghreb
18:51 Isha

AMMAN AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Alia Information Department at the Queen Alia International Airport tel. (06) 52350, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

07:05 Cairo (MS)
07:05 Agaba (RJ)
07:15 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
07:30 Dhahran (RJ)
07:45 Cairo (RJ)
07:55 Damascus (RJ)
08:00 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
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DEPARTURES

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WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
It will be partly cloudy, with northwesterly moderate winds. Possibly, there will be scattered showers.

NEWS IN BRIEF

King condoles Da'ja tribes

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein delegated the chief of tribal protocol, Sheikh Juweiber Bin Hathith, to convey his condolences to the Da'ja tribes on the death of Adnan Fallah Mkhaimar Abu Jamous. Mr. Mkhaimar was the Jordanian consul in North Yemen and had died from a heart attack over the weekend. He was buried Tuesday.

By-election statistics announced

AMMAN (J.T.) — The number of voters registered in the different parts of the country who are entitled to vote in the parliamentary by-elections to take place on March 12 is 549,213. Of these, 247,620 voters are from the Amman Governorate, 46,000 from the Karak Governorate, 144,476 from the Irbid Governorate, 93,737 from the Balqa Governorate and 17,380 from Tafseleh. The number of electoral centres to be used will be 870 of which 373 are in Amman, 130 in Balqa, 95 in Tafseleh, 180 in Irbid and 90 in Karak.

Mayor heads delegation to Singapore

AMMAN (J.T.) — Amman Mayor Abdul Raouf Rawabdeh left here Wednesday evening for Singapore to head a delegation comprising Amman Development Department Director-General, Sami Rasheed and Income Tax Department Director-General, Abdullah Nsour. The delegation will study the development that has taken place in Singapore in order to make use of the experiences in Amman. Later, Mr. Rawabdeh will visit the Philippines, Malaysia, Hong Kong, Japan and South Korea.

JMC to endorse doctors results Saturday

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan Medical Council (JMC) chairman, Dr. Kamel Ajlouni, will chair the JMC meeting to be held Saturday during which the general examination results for West Bank doctors and Jordanian doctors working in Kuwait will be endorsed.

Noor to open anthropology talks

AMMAN (J.T.) — A symposium on 'Anthropology in Jordan: State of the Art' and an exhibition of books on anthropology will be opened in Amman on Saturday Feb. 25 under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor.

The symposium and the exhibition, both to be held at the Royal Cultural Centre, are being organised by the Department of Libraries, Documentation and National Archives (DLDNA) in cooperation with the Jordanian universities.

According to DLDNA Director Ahmad Sharkas, the aim of the four-day symposium is to explore the field of anthropology in Jordan, encompassing both anthropological research being conducted in the country and the teaching of anthropology at various

educational institutions.

Scholars, who have been trained in anthropology and are involved in the teaching of the subject in Jordan, have been invited to take part in the symposium in order to review the current state of the art of this important field, Dr. Sharkas said.

In addition, he said, experts from the occupied West Bank and others from international institutions with experience in Jordanian anthropology have been invited as well.

At least 27 scholars will participate in the symposium during which working papers on the subject will be reviewed.

Queen Noor, who late last month chaired a meeting of the preparatory committee organising



the symposium, had expressed the hope that the symposium lead to further understanding and stimulate future development in this field.

Arab planning course concluded

AMMAN (Petra) — A training course on infrastructure projects evaluation, organised by the Arab Planning Institute in Kuwait, ended here Wednesday.

In a speech concluding the course, Royal Scientific Society (RSS) president, Dr. Fakhreddin Al Daghestani, said that contacts are underway to hold specialised courses on economic affairs at the

Arab national and regional levels with the purpose of developing practical and scientific experiences, exchanging expertise, as well as enabling participants to benefit from the expertise available in other Arab and Islamic countries.

Participants in the five-week course were briefed on topics related to the training of personnel in

order to be able to evaluate economic projects especially in water and electricity sectors in Jordan.

Taking part in the course were 25 participants from Jordan, Somalia, North Yemen, Iraq, Mauritania, Sudan, South Yemen, Kuwait and Morocco.

Chamber, Anani discuss action on trade problems

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism Jawad Al Anani held a three hour meeting here Wednesday with representatives of the Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce (FJCC) to discuss ways of co-operating in developing the country's economy.

Following the meeting, Dr. Anani said in a statement that the meeting was frank and useful and a broad range of issues pertaining to the country's trade sector were discussed with both sides listening to each other's views.

Both sides expressed concern to serve public interest, the minister said, adding that the current difficult economic stage requires mutual trust and the building of bridges of co-operation between the public and private sectors to serve the country's interests.

He expressed his willingness to hold further such meetings and to study ways of solving the pressing issues of the day with representatives of the Jordanian private sectors.

The federation's chairman, Mr. Hamdi Al Tabbaa, said afterwards

that the meeting was designed to help both sides find solutions to problems which the trade sector is now facing.

The federation has submitted to the minister a memorandum containing demands from representatives of the Jordanian trade sector, Mr. Tabbaa said.

Among these were that merchants who violate Ministry of Supply regulations be referred to civil rather than military courts, while another requested that merchants be allowed to import foodstuffs rather than as at present be restricted to the Ministry of Supply.

According to Mr. Tabbaa, the minister has issued instructions prohibiting the importation of trucks in view of the decline in business in that sector and the dif-



Jawad Al Anani

iculties which owners of Jordanian lorries are currently facing.

Also discussed in the meeting was a demand by Jordanian merchants to create a free trade zone at the Aqaba Port to supply ships docking there with food, oil by-products and other requirements.

Jordan severs relations with Libya

(Continued from page 1)

It seems that Jordan is asked to preserve Arab solidarity on its own, the prime minister said. "We will continue to do so as we always did since the Arab summit in Baghdad in 1978 despite the negative Libyan attitude and its default on its responsibilities."

At Baghdad summit it was decided to make annual aid grants to Jordan, Syria and Lebanon as well as the Palestine Liberation Organisation in their struggle against Israel as frontline states.

Under the provisions of the agreement Jordan was to receive a total of \$1,249.6 million annually to be made up by contributions of 7.1 per cent from Algeria, 14.9 per cent from Iraq, 15.7 per cent each from Kuwait and Libya, 6.6 per cent from Qatar, 28.6 per cent from Saudi Arabia and 11.4 per cent from the United Arab Emirates. Libya defaulted on its payments to Jordan from the beginning, Mr. 'Obaidat pointed out.

However, Jordan continued to train Libyans in its various civilian and military institutions specialised in social security, civil aviation, television, and the Military Academy, the Royal Command and Staff Academy, the prime minister said. "Jordan kept its door open to all Libyan trainees to get training and attend courses and all went back to their country gaining experiences which we leave to their government to assess."

Mr. 'Obaidat added that Jordan has done all of it can without expecting anything in return, hoping to preserve Arab solidarity while "Libya turned its back to any responsibility including the financial assistance assigned by the Baghdad summit."

Jordan also proved its sincerity towards Arab solidarity even after the Libyan media continued to direct allegations and started

campaigning against Jordan and to increase Arab differences through various campaigns.

"Our press has never contributed in any way to increase Arab differences nor did it go along with the Libyan press, but on the contrary the Jordanian press has played a positive and up-to-date role," he said.

Jordan always talked about Arab solidarity and has always adhered to it but "the irresponsible Libyan attitude continued to knock on our doors day and night and nag us through various means in an attempt to impose its tutelage on Jordan," the prime minister said.

"While Jordan is forbidden to talk with Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak, Libya is allowed to choose its own time, the Arab country and the Arab leader to talk to, and can send missionaries like Dam Qadhafi, leader of the Libyan intelligence and the cousin of Muammar Al Qadhafi, to hold talks with President Mubarak in Mor-

occo."

The prime minister wondered what crime Jordan has committed against the Palestinian leadership so as to incite the anger of Col. Qadhafi. "Jordan has always preserved the legitimacy of the Palestinian cause and Jordan always said that the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. This is an Arab decision and we always abide it."

"Jordan has never sought to split the Palestinian movement by setting the Palestinians against each other as Libya did," Mr. 'Obaidat said, referring to the Syrian and Libyan-backed rebellion against PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat in the organisation.

Lower House statement

In response to Mr. 'Obaidat's statement the Lower House of Parliament issued a statement condemning the criminal Libyan act of burning the Jordanian emb-

assy and expressed total support for any measures that the government decides to take against Libya.

The statement, formulated by the speaker of the House and chairman of the nine House Committees in a special meeting which followed Wednesday's session, held the Libyan authorities the total responsible for the incident.

"The Lower House of Parliament expresses its strong condemnation and deplores the criminal and immoral act perpetrated by the Libyan regime against the Jordanian embassy in Tripoli. The attack violates the moral foundations of the Arab and Islamic culture and contravenes international laws and diplomatic regulations concerning the protection of foreign diplomats," the statement said. It added that "the Lower House holds Libya responsible for this act of aggression and supports whatever measures the government would take against Libya."

By Anne Counsell
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Plans and developments for the Zarqa River catchment area were discussed this week between the Ministry of Agriculture, the National Planning Council (NPC) and the West German Agency for Technical co-operation (GTZ).

Mr. Dietrich Gebauer from GTZ based in Germany visited Jordan this week to review the progress of the project, which was started in 1982 following studies by GTZ and the ministry. He also discussed future possibilities during his visit.

Soil erosion

In an interview with the Jordan Times, Mr. Gebauer said that

GTZ is assisting on a technical basis to try and overcome the serious problem of soil erosion in the area that is siting up the King Talal Dam and affecting the agriculture of the region.

He said that an integrated approach was being implemented using a "safe land use" concept. This incorporates all the factors affecting the situation of erosion and its reduction.

A combination of various erosion prevention measures including terracing, construction of gabions, afforestation and land usage incorporating contour ploughing and effective water management could help combat the problem, he said.

Before the project started, investigations were carried out and studies were made on the top-

ography, soil condition, climate and water status in order to determine the land use capability and to conserve both the soil and water resources, said Mr. Gebauer.

In the past two years several projects have been initiated including pilot programmes in Mustaba and Hameid which have differing rainfall determining their agricultural activity.

An "accelerated implementation programme," which involved immediate action to reduce erosion through construction of gabions and protection of river banks have also been implemented.

Another programme of research and trial projects on soil-

water relations, run-off and siltation rate is being conducted.

Land management

The land management aspects of these trial projects are important said Mr. Gebauer as the effects of shallow, deep and continuous ploughing affect water run-off and soil conservation in all areas of the country. The results, he said, could be applied elsewhere.

The area covered by the project is 82,000 hectares and it involves co-operation with the farmers who will contribute various inputs to the scheme.

FOR SALE

Mercedes 200 1975, JD 1,500

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844641/642 (office)

CORRECTION

It was incorrectly quoted by the Reuters News Agency in the Wednesday edition of the Jordan Times that Jordan's overall balance of payments showed a surplus of JD 1.48 million in the third quarter of last year. This should have read showed a deficit of JD 1.48 million. The Jordan Times apologises this error.

A food festival from the Philippines

(Plus a return ticket to the Philippines for 2, courtesy of Philippine Airlines - details of how to win when you dine with us at *Marriott*)

Sumptuous pampangana - appetizers...
Delicious pangunahing pagkain - main courses...
Mouth watering panghimagtas - desserts...
The true taste of the Philippines brought to you
Today and everyday at the Marriott this month

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Please call tel: 673768, 672642, Amman.

FURNISHED FLAT FOR RENT

Two bedrooms with all essential facilities for reasonable rent. Location: Al Ajami Quarter, opposite Ministry of Interior Circle.

If interested please contact
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Location: Jabal Amman, 2nd Circle.
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663362 between 1.30 p.m. - 3.30 p.m.

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2-litre engine, 5-speed gear-box, a.c., electric windows with central lock, rear window wiper & washer, power-assisted steering.
Renault 5 Alpine Turbo
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Renault 5
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All cars are equipped with FM/AM radio-cassette.

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RSGLS + A.C.	2450
R18 station + A.C.GTX	3140
R5 Alpine	2900
Fluego GTX	3350
R9 Auto	2480

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Divers salvage a Roman amphora found near the entrance to the harbour that served ancient Caesarea, Palestine. (N.G. photo)

Slaves did Rome's harder job

By Donald J. Frederick

WASHINGTON — Most Roman citizens thought that the sailors who staggered through ancient Rome's major port cities such as Caesarea came from the lower depths.

Even though their ships supported an empire that reached from Egypt to Britain, the land-oriented Romans detested the thought of a life at sea. "As a profession the navy was rated just above the Roman air force," comments Albert P. Steiner, Jr., a professor of classical languages and archaeology at Butler University in Indianapolis.

Studying hundreds of ancient tombstones and documents, Steiner and Kathryn A. Thomas, a professor of classics and modern languages at Creighton University in Omaha, have found that almost all the people who served on Roman merchant and military vessels were non-citizens.

Lured by citizenship

Military recruiters prowled such far-flung places as the upper Dan-

ube River and the coast of North Africa for able-bodied sailors. As a come-on, they offered the plum of Roman citizenship after 26 years of service, a benefit that could be inherited by an honorably discharged sailor's heirs.

It was a tempting enticement because, although they were free, few people in the provinces could hold public office or undertake business ventures without citizenship.

"In effect, the state was offering a retirement plan with upward mobility to provincials who had few opportunities," says Thomas.

Usually enlisting about the age of 20 or 21, a recruit was put on a trireme, or galley, one of the low, long, and lightly built ships rowed by as many as 150 men.

The oarsmen doubled as soldiers in battle. A galley would manoeuvre alongside an enemy ship and fasten onto it with grappling hooks and lines so the attackers could leap aboard for hand-to-hand combat.

Life on merchant ships was equally harsh. Besides being prey to severe storms and pirates, the large, stubby, square-sailed ships often stayed at sea for days at a

time, unlike the galleys, which pulled ashore each night because of their big crews, small storage capacity, and a tendency to become waterlogged.

Slaves manned merchantmen

"There was no recruiting for the merchant fleet," says Thomas. "It was staffed mainly by slaves, many of whom were owned by free-wheeling traders on the Roman mainland."

Many of the military seamen fared little better than slaves, even after long years of service. A significant number of them, especially those who had never gotten important promotions, were drummed out of the service after 25 years. That just happened to be one year before they would have been entitled to their Roman citizenship.

"It was another ruthless means of exclusion from the company pension plan," observes Steiner.

But there were success stories, too. Steiner and Thomas discovered that at least 28 recruits reached the exalted rank of triarch or squadron commander.

Japan develops artificial blood

By Joanne Edwards
Reuter

TOKYO — Japanese companies have developed artificial blood substitutes which they say can be stored for longer than natural blood and eliminate the risk of transmitting infectious diseases.

One company, Green Cross Pharmaceutical, has already applied to the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for approval of its substitute blood called "fluosol."

The FDA has requested more data and Japanese authorities have yet to approve the product for the domestic market.

Apart from Green Cross, all the companies producing blood substitutes are food or brewery concerns diversifying their research efforts into the field of biotechnology.

The Ajinomoto Company, which developed monosodium glutamate, widely used as a food flavour enhancer and also as a preservative, says it hopes to have its artificial blood on the market within five years.

Ajinomoto's researchers have developed a technique whereby the main component of natural blood is mixed with another sub-

stance — polyethylene glycol — to produce a substitute blood.

The company says the substitute has several advantages over natural blood. It eliminates the risk in transfusions of passing on blood-borne infectious diseases such as herpes, AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) and hepatitis.

It can also be stored for longer than natural blood and used regardless of blood group. At an optimum temperature of four degrees centigrade (39.2° Fahrenheit), natural blood can be kept for only 21 days, which usually means that 20 to 30 per cent of all blood bank reserves have to be discarded.

Researches say this discarded blood can now be used as the raw material for artificial blood.

Cell membranes are removed from the red corpuscles of the natural blood — the red corpuscles carry oxygen to the body's cell tissues — enabling the substitute blood to be used for any blood groups.

In experiments, rats which had 90 per cent of their blood replaced with the substitute survived for more than two weeks while those that received natural blood lived for only a few hours.

Science and medicine are also

benefiting from the knowledge gained by Japan's soy sauce manufacturers and brewers in their traditional fields.

Yamasa Shoyu Company, established 300 years ago and one of Japan's flavour enhancers such as mushrooms and dried fish with derivatives of nucleic acid, the basic substance of life itself.

The company has now developed more than 200 such derivatives, many of which are supplied as raw material to pharmaceutical manufacturers.

Enzymes produced from the derivatives as a direct result of manufacturing food flavouring are now used in the clinical diagnosis of blood and urine samples. Enzymes are the organic substances that promote the chemical processes of life.

By cross-breeding mice, Yamasa has produced antibodies which induce natural interferon, used in the treatment of some forms of cancer.

Japan's largest soy sauce maker, Kikkoman Shoyu, has derived a cardio-tonic agent thought to be useful in the treatment of patients after heart surgery and others prone to heart attacks. The company plans to start marketing the product this year.

Interpol to seek computer help

By Mary Ellen Bortin
Reuter

PARIS — Interpol, the International Criminal Police Organisation, is looking to computers to help it fight increasingly sophisticated white-collar crime.

But its plans to computerise data on individual criminals have been set back by concerns in many countries over civil liberties and also by fears that the criminals themselves might gain access to the secret records.

"I am not a Neanderthal man who opposes technical progress, but when I see the possibilities it offers, especially with the computer, I stop to ask some questions," said Interpol chief Andre Bossard.

"It's so easy. If children can break into advanced circuits with home computers, anything is possible," he told Reuters in his office overlooking the Paris suburb of Saint-Cloud.

Mr. Bossard, secretary general of Interpol since 1978, portrayed today's computerised criminals as descendants of the stagecoach robbers of yesteryear who harnessed the best technology then available, "good horses", to pursue their aims.

A voluble man whose glib frankness contrasts with Interpol's cloak-and-dagger reputation, Mr. Bossard, 57, said white collar crime and fund laundering in off-

shore banks were gaining on illegal narcotics trafficking as his leading concern.

"Economic fraud reported to us last year totalled \$1.5 billion, and that's just the tip of the iceberg," he said.

But if today's gangsters can use computers, police often have a hard time keeping up due to bureaucratic and legal obstacles.

"If a criminal wants to take a plane, he has money. — generally not his own — he goes to buy a ticket and takes the plane," Mr. Bossard said. "If a policeman wants to follow him by plane, he must begin by writing a report."

Arrests across borders require international warrants, a time-consuming process which can give the escaping criminal the necessary get-away edge over police.

To fight back, Mr. Bossard said computerisation would have to become a fact of life for police.

Interpol has already computerised data such as counterfeit banknote numbers and could begin entering statistics on drug trafficking and descriptions of stolen works.

But he said the organisation would wait for the creation of an international control commission before entering data on individuals.

Interpol dropped a previous plan to set up a computerised criminal file with links to central pol-

ice bureaux in all its 135 member countries after doubts arose due to differences in national legislation on the protection of individuals.

Last year, an international committee set up to monitor Interpol activities warned the French government that a global computer network on criminals could curtail civil liberties, citing "the danger of a police organisation above the law."

The group was referring to a proposed accord granting Mr. Bossard and his staff of 225 diplomatic privileges and immunity from legal prosecution in France.

The scheme, which also includes provisions for transferring Interpol's criminal files from index cards to a computer, nonetheless came into operation on Feb. 14.

Mr. Bossard said the Computer Control Commission a five-man panel of independent legal experts and computer specialists appointed by Interpol and the French government, would review the problem of legislation and tighten up security as well.

The Interpol chief declined to say exactly when individual data on the world's top public enemies would be transferred from standard files to computers, but stressed this was inevitable.

"It will not be tomorrow, perhaps the day after tomorrow. I think it's coming in the 1980s. It's on the cards," he said.

Randa Habib's Corner

Stop parading pyjamas

WITH THE arrival of spring the sun will be warmer, the flowers will start to blossom and some gentlemen will go out in their pyjamas.

Stripped, checkered or with flowers, the pyjamas of those gentlemen are carefully chosen to enable us to see them. It is a funny habit that we have here. They say that this habit comes from a neighbouring country where in some areas men are wearing their pyjamas day and night and circulate proudly in the streets. Thank God this "problem" is limited over here. It is especially on Fridays where one sleeps late that we see pyjamas parading in the streets. Yes, some are even more fussy and put a dressing gown to look more classy but most of them, when the weather permits, feel more relaxed with just their pyjamas. But we should admit that the pyjamas are carefully chosen. Some have pyjamas for sleeping and others for going out; there's a difference, you see.

Go on a Friday when the weather is nice to a small shop where they make "homous" and you will see them arrive wearing their slippers and their striped pyjamas, holding a plate in their hand and waiting for their turn to take home the morning meal. Go also to bakeries where they are numerous and stand in line, and as they are for the major neighbours they take this opportunity to chat while waiting to take the hot bread.

I have even seen a woman in a dressing gown at a bakery, but it is true that this is not customary and I would rather say that women specialise in going out in the afternoons to walk in the sun with rollers on their head.

What do you want, everybody knows that hair dryers are bad for the hair and you have to dry your hair... what is therefore more practical than this natural procedure?

Indonesian 'becak' about to disappear

By Peter Millership
Reuter

JAKARTA — The becak tricycle rickshaw, the poor man's taxi in Indonesia, is coming to the end of the road here and will be banned from the streets of Jakarta next year.

Becaks, which seat two people comfortably and are pedalled from behind, once ruled this city's avenues and provided incomes for tens of thousands of drivers and their families.

But the city's by-laws have forced them out of the bustling centre to look for trade in the back streets and suburbs.

Barefoot becak drivers are no strangers to police licensing checks and a becak graveyard is already bursting, with thousands of confiscated machines piled high.

About 16,000 illegal becaks will be confiscated in the next phase of the pedicab clean-up operation and the 8,000 legal ones will be given permits only to the end of this year, police said.

The leisurely becaks have several merits — they are quiet, cheap, easily maintained and non-polluting — but city hall in-

ists they are a menace in Jakarta's chaotic traffic and do not fit the city's go-ahead image.

Authorities say they are also worried about the influx of unskilled labourers, many from rural areas, into this densely-crowded city of seven million to drive becaks.

Most drivers are homeless and sleep in their rickshaws. The demise of the becak, which will be sorely missed by low-income Jakartans, will be welcomed by drivers of the bajaj, motorised three-wheel scooters, which are the next step up from becaks but still cost less to hire than taxis.

The undisciplined, orange-painted bajajs, notorious for nosing insistently through the city's choked traffic, look set to thrive on the extra business.

In a city where a family of five squashed together on small Honda motorcycle is not an unusual sight, riding in a becak rickshaw was one of life's luxuries.

Despite the inconveniences, becaks retain an ambulatory dignity and seeing a couple being driven back silently from an evening's entertainment recalls the romance of a more leisurely era.

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England beats New Zealand in 1-day cricket match

WELLINGTON (R) — A five-wicket haul by off-spinner Vic Marks and a sparkling 70 from opener Chris Smith steered England to an easy six-wicket win over New Zealand in the second one-day Cricket International here Wednesday.

The victory clinched the three-match series for England and provided some revenge for their first-ever defeat to New Zealand in the recent test series.

New Zealand were always in trouble against the accurate England bowling, slumping to 135 all out in 47.1 overs. Marks took the first five wickets and deservedly won his man of the match award for his return of five for 20 from his 19 overs.

In reply, England reached 139 with 4.5 overs to spare from their regulation 50 overs.

Their batting was led by the South African-born Smith who smashed 15 fours in his innings of 70 before he played on to Richard Hadlee at 117.

The winning runs were hit by Derek Randall, the hero of England's 54-run win in the first one-day game last Saturday. He swept calmly to earn victory and finished on 25 not out.

Botham had earlier attempted to win the game with a reverse sweep shot against Hadlee, but was bowled with the scores level after hitting a quickfire 15.

New Zealand openers Bruce Edgar and Trevor Franklin, standing in for John Wright who had an ear infection, were pinned down in the early overs by England captain Bob Willis and Norman Cowans.

Then Marks came on after nine overs and quickly caught and bowled Franklin.

12th Mechanised Division wins table tennis match

AMMAN (J.T.) — The 12th Mechanised Division of the Jordanian Armed Forces won the Military Sports Federation table tennis tournament at the Al Hussein Youth City sports palace Wednesday.

Several teams from various Armed Forces units participated at the competition.

The commander of the Royal Command and Staff Academy presented cups and medals to the winning teams. Senior army officers and troops attended the match.

Jordan competes in Cairo shooting competition

AMMAN (J.T.) — Mohammad Gosh of Egypt won the 1st place in an Arab shooting competition on the 1st day, Tuesday in Cairo.

Eleven shooters from Jordan, Egypt and Kuwait competed at the tournament. Khairi Yasser Amer of Jordan won the 9th place at the event. Jordanian national shooting team completed practice for Thursday's competition.

Navratilova beats Wade in indoor tennis

EAST HANOVER, New Jersey (AP) — Martina Navratilova, looking every bit the part of the world's top-ranked player, roared past Great Britain's Virginia Wade 6-0, 6-2 in the second round Tuesday at the \$150,000 Computerland U.S. Women's National Indoor Tennis Championships.

In night play, no. 3-seed Chris Evert Lloyd, returning to the tournament circuit for the first time in over three months, on a first-round battle with Beverly Mould of South Africa, 6-2, 6-3.

"I was pleased that I was winning points on my serve," said Evert Lloyd, who put aside her wood raked for a mid-size graphite model.

"I want to use my serve as a weapon instead of just using it to start off the point. The serve and my court speed are two areas that I have to work on if I expect to beat Martina," said the 29-year-old, who was 0-6 against Navratilova in 1983.

Evert Lloyd faces a second-round match Wednesday with 16-year-old Carling Bassett of Canada.

Duran must fight McCallum, WBA rules

PANAMA CITY, Panama (AP) — Junior middleweight boxing champion Roberto Duran must defend his title against leading contender Mike McCallum of Jamaica, the World Boxing Association (WBA) announced here Tuesday.

WBA President Gilberto Mendoza said Duran, of Panama, received special permission from the association to fight WBC middleweight champion Marvin Hagler on Nov. 10, 1983, on condition his next fight be with McCallum.

leading contender in the WBA's junior middleweight division. Hagler defeated Duran to retain his title.

Mendoza said the WBA will insure that "commitments assumed before the association" are respected.

Luis Spada, Duran's manager, said recently that the Panamanian boxer did not want to fight any boxer other than WBC superwelterweight champion Tommy Hearns "even though this would mean the loss of his WBA crown."

Brazil, Chile qualify for Olympic soccer games

GUAYAQUIL, Ecuador (R) — Brazil and Chile gained places at the Los Angeles Olympic Games while Ecuador and Paraguay were eliminated in the finals of a soccer qualifying tournament here Tuesday night.

Brazil, unbeaten in the tournament, finished with six points. Chile qualified on goal difference after finishing equal on two points with Ecuador and Paraguay.

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Watford inflicts more misery on West Ham

LONDON (R) — Watford sustained their sequence of success and inflicted more misery on West Ham when they beat the London club 4-2 in the English First Division Tuesday night.

Football Association (F.A.) Cup quarter-finalists Watford hit back for their first-ever win at the Upton Park ground of West Ham, whose defeat came three days after they crashed 3-0 to Birmingham in the F.A. Cup.

Dave Swindlehurst fired West Ham ahead but Scot Maurice Johnston equalised — his 16th goal in 19 games — and John Barnes put Watford in front.

A spectacular Bobby Barnes volley put the Londoners back on terms before John Barnes, named in the England squad to face France

next week, scored his second. Nigel Callaghan netted the fourth to seal a win which lifted Watford from 12th to eighth in the 22-team division.

West Ham squandered the chance to move up a place and remain fourth-six points behind champions and leaders Liverpool.

Southampton, also through to the last eight of the F.A. Cup, hammered all their goals in the first 36 minutes for a 3-0 First Division win over Ipswich.

Frank Worthington, Steve Moran and David Armstrong each scored by capitalising on defensive lapses by an Ipswich side who produced one of their worst displays of the season, watched by their former boss Bobby Robson, who is now England manager.

Schumacher to play in France

FRANKFURT, West Germany (R) — The West German Soccer Federation (DFB) said Wednesday it would not ban goalkeeper Toni Schumacher from June's European Championships in France over his "foul" on a French player in the 1982 World Cup.

The statement was in response to reports in the West German media that the DFB and trainer Jupp Derwall did not want the 29-year-old goalkeeper in the West German team in France because of fears of a hostile reaction from French crowds.

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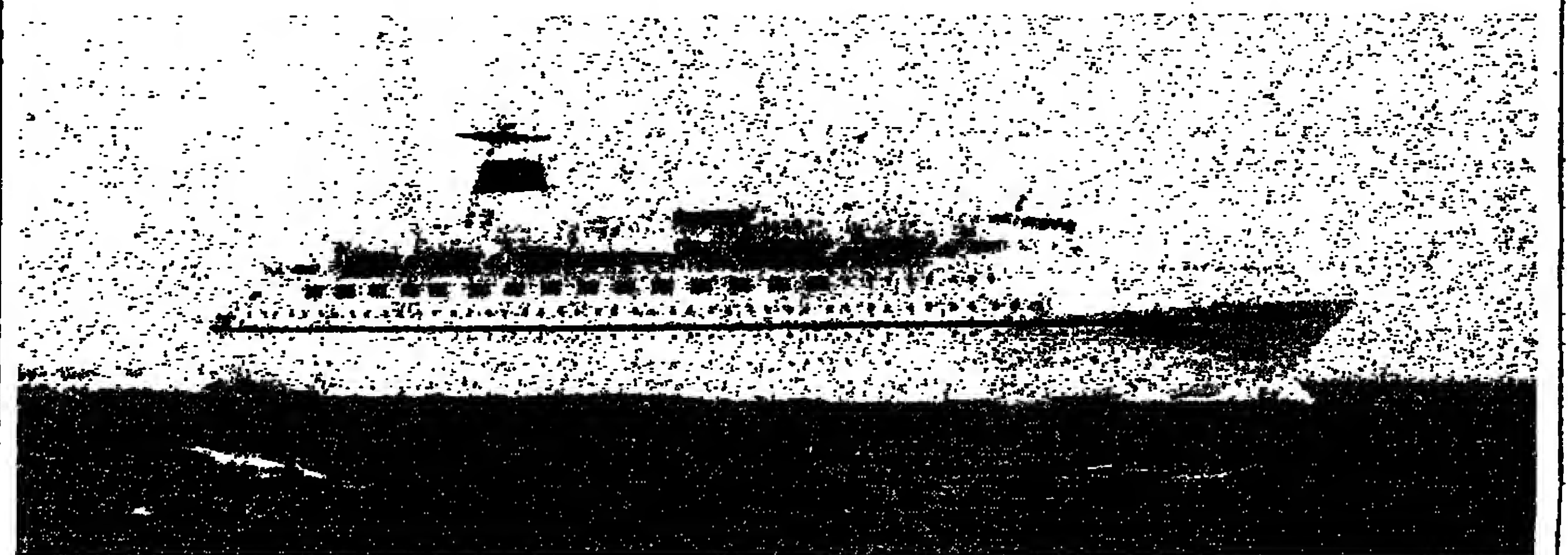
The Telecommunications Corporation of Jordan announces the ISD service is to be introduced with 17 new countries via the new SPADE system. Thus, the number of connected countries with the Jordanian ISC switch becomes (37).

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8.	DENMARK	45	COPENHAGEN	1
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10.	NETHERLAND	31	AMSTERDAM	20
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Service on board Soviet liners is equal to that of the best of other flags. Soviet ships and crews, however, are known for their traditional Russian hospitality which adds special charm to a voyage by sea. Master's cocktails, get-together parties, gala dinners and suppers, concerts given by professional artists and by amateurs from the crew, all serve to leave lasting memories of the voyage. Some people cannot believe that a performer is a seaman, or a stewardess when on the stage. Such concerts can only be enjoyed on board Soviet liners.

There is free medical aid on Soviet ships. Tax-free shops on board each vessel offer a big variety of goods — anything from national souvenirs to Russian furs and jewellery.

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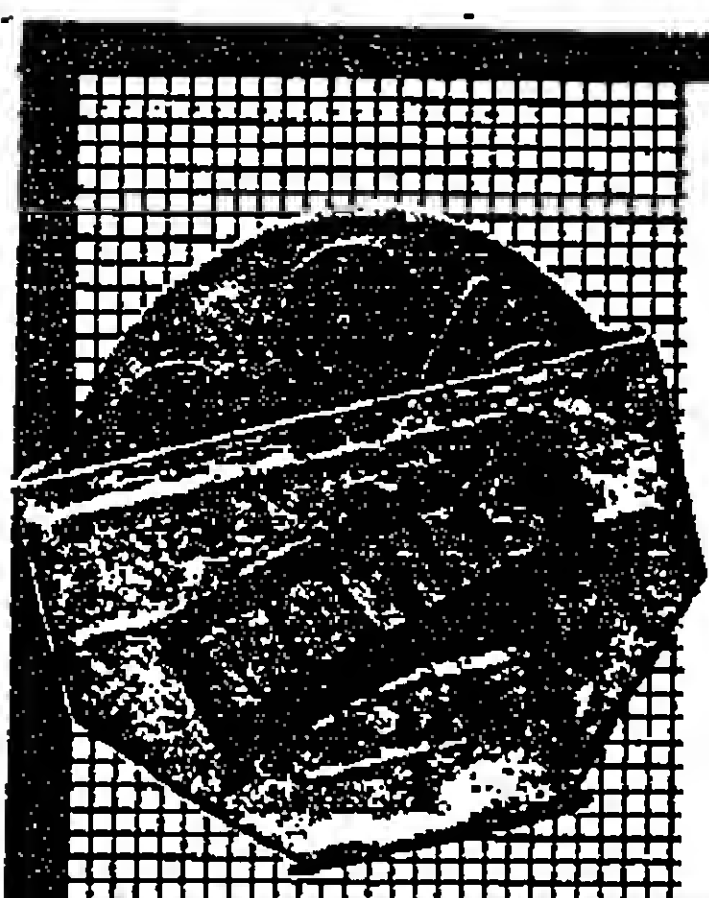
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Nicaragua denies advancing election date to influence U.S.

MANAGUA (Agencies) — Nicaragua's government has denied opposition claims that it advanced the date of presidential and constituent assembly elections in a bid to influence U.S. public opinion in November's White House race.

The timetable was changed to comply with a request from the Socialist International that the elections be held this year, a government spokesman said.

Originally planned for 1985, the elections — which diplomats say are certain to end in victory for the ruling Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) — were set Tuesday for November 4, just two days before the U.S. presidential elections.

Opposition group spokesman Luis Rivera Leiva said the date had been deliberately chosen to influence U.S. public opinion against any invasion of Nicaragua, since it would appear the Sandinistas were complying with a U.S.

demand to legitimize their rule. "By aiming at the U.S. public, the government has given us less time to prepare our campaign," he told Reuters.

But an FSLN spokesman said the date was chosen in response to a request from the Socialist International that the government, which has not held elections since seizing power in a 1979 revolution, should seek a popular mandate in 1984.

He said that with the coffee harvest starting in mid-November, which would occupy a large number of workers, Nov. 4 was the only possible date given the length of time needed to prepare for the balloting.

It is also the anniversary of the death of Casimiro Soto, an FSLN leader who was killed by the National Guard of former dictator Anastasio Somoza.

The spokesman added that Jan. 10, when the newly elected representatives are due to take power, was also a significant Sandinista anniversary — that of the death of newspaper editor Pedro Joaquín Chamorro, a fierce opponent of the Somoza regime.

The four main opposition parties remained sceptical of their chances for getting a fair hearing in the election campaign.

At a press conference Tuesday, they repeated their demands that a state of emergency, in force since 1982, be lifted and complete freedom of press and expression be allowed.

No military action planned

In Washington U.S. Secretary

of State George Shultz said Tuesday the United States plans no military action in Nicaragua, but Democratic senators charged that U.S. administration policy in Central America could lead to another Lebanon.

Testifying before the Senate Budget Committee on behalf of the administration's \$17.2 billion request for foreign aid and other international spending, Mr. Shultz said: "There isn't any plan for the use of American military force in Nicaragua."

But he defended U.S. military exercises in neighbouring Honduras, saying, "we seek to support our friends down there."

"We should be prepared as a country to make a long-term commitment to the health of our neighbourhood, and central America and the Caribbean are part of our neighbourhood," Mr. Shultz told the committee.



NAKASONE CAUGHT NAPPING: Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone (left) gets a wake-up tap from Legislative Bureau Director Takashi Mognishi, a member of his cabinet, after falling asleep at a recent budget committee session in the lower house of the Diet (parliament).

Democratic candidates gather in New Hampshire

MANCHESTER, New Hampshire (AP) — All eight candidates for the Democratic Party presidential nomination Wednesday were making their way to New Hampshire to refine their positions for the state's first-in-nation primary nominating election next week.

Fresh from Iowa where they met in precinct head-counting contests across that midwestern farm state — with former Vice President Walter Mondale scoring an overwhelming victory — the presidential hopefuls met in a debate on Thursday setting the stage for the primary election on Tuesday in which voters will express their preferences among the candidates.

The New Hampshire election is the first in a series of secret-ballot elections leading up to the party conventions next summer. In Iowa, the selection was by caucus — small, local meetings of party members to select delegates to the conventions — rather than by the voters.

Mr. Mondale garnered 48.9 per cent of the Iowa precinct vote which Senator Gary Hart of Colorado followed Mr. Mondale with 16.4 per cent considerably better than pollsters had predicted.

Senator John Glenn of Ohio, widely regarded earlier as Monday's strongest rival to Mr. Mondale in Iowa, won only 3.4 per cent while former Senator George McGovern got 10.2 per cent. Senator Alan Florida 2.4, the Rev. Jesse Jackson 1.5, Senator Ernest Hollings of South Carolina .04, and others .02 per cent.

Taking no time out to celebrate their Iowa successes, Mr. Mondale and Mr. Hart quickly turned their attention to New Hampshire and the next big events on the Democratic presidential circuit.

Mr. Hart's second-place finish in Iowa gives his campaign new life, if for no other reason than the increased attention it will bring him.

Mr. Glenn's finish behind four rivals, on the other hand, puts the pressure on him to do well in next week's New Hampshire primary. Widely portrayed as Mr. Mondale's chief challenger going into Iowa, Mr. Glenn said he hoped to fare much better among what he described as the more conservative voters in New Hampshire.

Mr. Hart's campaign manager said his strategy calls for a hit-and-run type of attack on Mr. Mondale rather than a frontal assault on the front-runner.

"It is important for Mr. Hart's credibility that we do well in the Western states early," added Henkel. "In the early going, we will not challenge Mr. Mondale in states with big urban areas, where he has the labour unions working for him."

Mr. Hart described his second-place showing in Iowa as "a big boost" and said, "It sets up a contest between the party's future and its past."

Meanwhile, Mr. Mondale accused President Ronald Reagan on Tuesday of "leadership by amnesia."

"No one is effectively in charge of this government," he said, "and the American people cannot tolerate that."

Nitze: U.S. ready to resume missile talks on short notice

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. negotiator Paul Nitze said Tuesday President Ronald Reagan's administration is prepared to resume talks to curb nuclear missiles in Europe on 24 hours notice but that he sees no "serious possibility" that the Soviet Union is interested.

It is more likely, Mr. Nitze told reporters, that the Soviets will ask for a resumption of negotiations to limit longer-range nuclear weapons. But he said he doubts the Soviet leadership under Konstantin Chernenko has decided on a date.

Meanwhile, Mr. Nitze said, it would be a mistake for the United States to pause in its deployment of Pershing 2 and cruise missiles in Western Europe, even though the buildup and Soviet countermeasures increase the danger

of war "perhaps a little."

The Soviets broke off the Euro-missile talks Nov. 23 when the Reagan administration refused to postpone the Pershing and cruise deployment. The parallel talks on strategic nuclear weapons recessed in December with the Soviets declining to set a date for another round.

In the interim, the Reagan administration is proceeding with a schedule that would install 572 Pershing 2 and cruise missiles in West Germany, Britain, Italy, Belgium and the Netherlands over five years.

Mr. Nitze said the Soviets decided in the summer of 1982 that the Euro-missile talks would fail and began preparations to try to put the blame on the United States.

Former Argentine president arrested in war investigation

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP) — Former Argentine President and military junta member Gen. Leopoldo Galtieri was arrested Tuesday night on orders of the supreme military council investigating charges of negligence and incompetence by high-ranking officers during the 1982 Falkland Islands war with Britain.

Col. Jorge Gonzalez Ramirez, secretary of the council, armed forces' highest tribunal, said Gen. Galtieri was placed under custody at the giant Campo de Mayo Army Base 30 kilometres northwest of the capital.

Gen. Galtieri, who testified for nearly nine hours before the council on Tuesday, will be held at the base at the disposition of the tribunal. Col. Gonzalez Ramirez said.

War-time navy commander and junta member Admiral Jorge Anaya was blamed in the report for instigating the use of force in the 150-year-old dispute over the islands, then withdrawing his ships from battle for fear of having them sunk.

The commission recommended to the council that the two men be charged with violating articles of the military code providing the

death penalty, though the maximum sentence was considered extremely unlikely.

Gen. Galtieri, accompanied by his attorney, spent four and a half hours before the council on Tuesday morning and returned for an hour and 20 minute session in the afternoon. He said he "felt fine," but refused to answer other questions from reporters waiting outside council headquarters in downtown Buenos Aires.

The council, made up of nine retired generals and admirals, is studying accusations made last November in an interbranch investigative committee report which outlined "strategic and political responsibilities" for the war and its outcome.

Although the 23-page report never has been made public, leaks to various Argentine media indicated it recommended the courts martial of 16 officers who held high positions during the war.

According to published reports, the commission accused Gen. Galtieri, president and army commander from 1981 until his removal after the Argentine defeat, of demagoguery and adventurism in launching what it termed the "ill advised" war.

U.N. chief offers to help secure 20 Czech hostages

VIENNA (R) — United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar on a visit to Prague has offered to try to secure the release of 20 Czechoslovak held hostage by anti-government forces in Angola.

Mr. Perez de Cuellar told his hosts, President Gustav Husak and Foreign Minister Bohuslav Choupek, he would do "everything" to bring about the freeing of the hostages held by guerrillas of the United Front for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) since March last year, the official Ceteka News agency reported.

The U.N. secretary-general arrived in Prague Tuesday from Poland. He has already mediated to secure the release last August of 45 hostages, mainly women and children captured by UNITA in the

March raid, for which he was personally thanked Tuesday by both Mr. Husak and Mr. Choupek.

The 20 men are the rest of the group of 66 Czechoslovak technicians, women and children and 20 Portuguese captured in an UNITA raid on an industrial complex in central Angola.

The hostages were forced to make a gruelling 1,300-kilometre march to an UNITA base camp, during which one man died of exhaustion.

In his talks with Mr. Husak, Mr. Perez de Cuellar praised Czechoslovakia's peace policy and its realistic approach to the world's main problems. Ceteka said.

It said both Mr. Husak and Mr. Choupek praised the secretary general's efforts to strengthen the role of the United Nations in solving conflicts.

Foreign leaders arrive for Brunei celebrations

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN (R) — Britain's Prince Charles and President Ferdinand Marcos of the Philippines were among a galaxy of foreign leaders and royals arriving Wednesday for Brunei's independence celebrations.

The band of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces hardly had time to pause for breath between national anthems as fleets of Rolls Royces whisked kings, princes and presidents from the airport to a welcome parade in the heart of this tiny capital.

Sultan Sir Muda Hassanah Bolkhiah, absolute monarch of the fabulously wealthy north Borneo state, stood in dark green military uniform to greet his visitors, who include leaders from all non-Commonwealth countries and the United States.

Communist countries were not represented for Thursday's national day celebrations.

The 37-year-old ruler has prepared a right royal reception for more than 4,000 guests from some 70 countries to mark the end of

nearly a century of British rule. Brunei, 5,765 square kilometres of jungles sitting on top of vast oil and gas deposits, has run its own internal affairs since 1959 but left responsibility for foreign relations and defence with London.

The British-educated sultan, 29th ruler of a Muslim monarchy which once controlled all of north Borneo, has spent millions of dollars preparing for the celebration.

The pageantry begins with a mass rally and display in the recently completed \$250 million stadium which seats 30,000 people.

For the evening, the sultan has laid on a sumptuous state banquet for 4,000 in the main hall of his enormous new palace beside the Brunei River which rivals Louis XIV's Versailles for size and splendour.

The 2,000-room, gold-domed edifice, three times as big as Queen Elizabeth's Buckingham Palace, is viewed by most of the sultan's 200,000 subjects as a fitting symbol of the wealth and pride of the last autocratic dynasty in the region.

Gunmen kill Punjab political leader's son

NEW DELHI (R) — Unidentified gunmen shot dead the son of a political leader and wounded another in the Sikh holy city of Amritsar Wednesday as violence flared for the ninth successive day across India's troubled northern state of Punjab.

While police launched a massive manhunt for a killer squad that gunned down nine people and wounded 12 when they rampaged through two Punjab villages on motorbikes Tuesday night, gunmen struck twice again this morning, killing the son of a local leader of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's Congress (I) Party.

The Press Trust of India news agency said Congress leader Krishan Lal Sharma and his son were shot at in their home. The father was not hurt.

In a separate incident, the son of a regional leader of the right-wing

Hindu Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) was shot and seriously wounded, the agency added. He was hit twice at close range and has a bullet in the head.

A curfew, due to have been relaxed in Amritsar for eight hours, was re-imposed. It is also in force in five other towns across Punjab.

At least 40 people have been killed and 300 wounded in the past nine days of Hindu-Sikh trouble in Punjab and the neighbouring state of Haryana.

The agency said five Sikh leaders who planned to visit Haryana Wednesday following bloodshed there were detained at the state border.

The violence is part of a Hindu backlash against an 18-month-old Sikh campaign for religious and political concessions from the government, including greater autonomy for Punjab.

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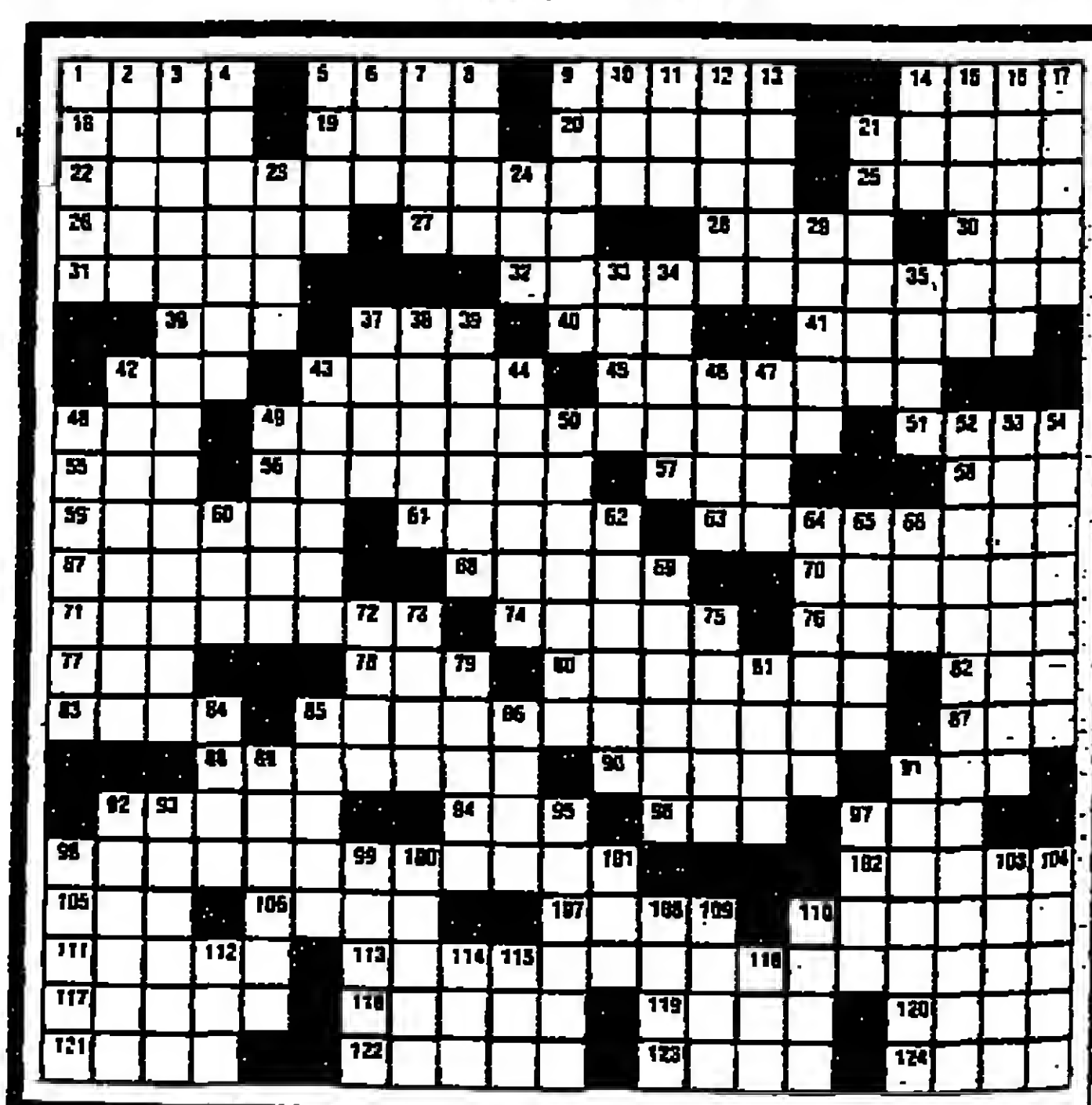
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THE WEEKEND CROSSWORD

Edited by Herb Emswiler



Last Week's Cryptograms

- From their shoes, a foreigner might deduce most Americans were running with the crowd.
- If asked how ignorance and apathy differ, some people might reply: "We don't know, and we don't care."
- While a few overgrown school of codfish, gained great strength.
- Growing youth outgrew his young male's clothes.

CRYPTOGRAMS

- HYXO URZNUW WPYMOO NY XPANUS XNUV
- LYNCHATY BODHAWT: MP FXI, MTWQD
- BOYP IXD QOCB, BOURTUTWYTTO HXIX
- UTLTUCXCH INOFUCE MT.

- HAINTMDIPR HNZVZV BARKS GURD TKERA
- MUB OKWMS KUVSOMUB, WLS PLUCKUR
- AREETWEL BOARDO ARDDON RX URB AXOETH
- XBOATNOWLTHV OVOELTUWA.

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